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Helms Calls China Near Superpower

From News Dispatches

The Central Intelligence Agency believes China is on the verge of becoming a superpower in intercontinental ballistic missiles, Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said yesterday.

After CIA Director Richard

Helms briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee privately on Monday, Symington said he was "shocked" to find out how close China is to becoming "a superpower, particularly in the field of missiles."

"This to me reduced the practical effects of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty) talks," Symington said.

"China seems to be an increasing danger," Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) told reporters. "I was surprised to hear Red China is making progress as fast as they are."

"Red China has made tremendous progress not only in the ability to build nuclear weapons but to also deliver the nuclear weapons," he said.

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